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The Making of Species. By DOUGLAS DEWAR AND FRANK FINN.
London: John Lane, The Bodley Head, 1909. Pp. xix+400,
with 12 figures.

The purpose of this book is well expressed in the Preface by the statement of the authors that each had a feeling that the problems of the origin of species had not been settled, and alone each one felt unable to attack and settle so momentous a question; but apparently they found strength in union and have attempted to settle the question of species-making. Most naïve is their statement given on p. 7 of the Introduction: "Our aim in writing this book has been twofold: In the first place, we have attempted to place before the general public in simple language a true statement of the present position of biological science. In the second place, we have endeavored to furnish the scientific men of the day with food for reflection."

Certain it is that the scientific men of England must be highly complimented by being provided with food for reflection by a pair of amateur ornithologists. On p. 8 we are informed that Great Britain is losing her scientific supremacy, and on p. 9 we find the statement that the authors are not attacking Darwinism, but neo-Darwinism, which is characterized as a pathological growth on Darwinism, which, according to the authors, "can only be removed by a surgical operation," but we are not informed anywhere in the volume as to the nature of this operation.

Some idea of the contents of the book can be gained from the headings of the chapters. Chap. i, entitled "The Rise of the Theory of Natural Selection and Its Subsequent Development," is mainly historical, and is principally devoted to the neo-Darwinian situation. Chap. ii, "Some of the More Important Objections to the Theory of Natural Selection," contains absolutely nothing new, and is at best a crude rehash of the various objections urged against natural selection during the last half-century. Chap. iii, dealing with "Variation," shows an even less clear idea of the problems involved; certain it is that the position of DeVries and Bateson is anything but clearly understood. A number of instances of "mutations" among birds are cited, which instances are nothing more nor less than the most trivial variations, without any information whatsoever as to whether the variations breed true. Chap. iv, on "Hybridism," is essentially a half-century behind the times. Chap. v, on "Inheritance," where they wish to be profound and far seeing, falls quite flatly into the

neo-Darwinian camp by the acceptance of the theory of biological molecules, whatever they may be. Chap. vi, on "The Coloration of Organisms," is about the sort of thing one would expect from amateur ornithologists. Chap. vii, on "Sexual Dimorphism," has nothing to commend it. It is essentially a rehash of the work of Thompson and Geddes. The final chapter, viii, on "The Factors of Evolution," is probably the best chapter in the entire volume. It states in a fairly correct, but not very concise manner, something of what we now know concerning the factors operative in evolution.

The work as a whole has no excuse for its existence. The authors are evidently not alive to the developments in the field of evolution in recent years, and the illustrations are little less than abominable. Certainly in a work which is intended for the general reader, and which purports to deal with the problem of evolution broadly, there can be no excuse whatsoever for limiting the illustrations to twelve very mediocre figures of unimportant birds, which really illustrate nothing.

The book work is good, and the publishers are to be commended for the care and the good workmanship which have been put into the book, but it seems a shame that so much effort should be expended on a volume of so little use, either to the scientific public, or to the general reader.

W. L. TOWER

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Biography of American Statesmanship. An Analytical Reference Syllabus. By GEORGE ELLIOT HOWARD, PH.D., Professor of Political Science and Sociology in the University of Nebraska. Published by the University, 1909.

This is an attempt to arrange the subject-matter for the careers of American statesmen in such form that students may easily grasp the significance of each and understand what the contributions of each career to American politics have been. The names selected are such as must meet universal approval and the significant contributions are not overlooked or substituted out by matters of less moment. As an experiment in teaching, this method of analysis seems to have been successful. But teaching is such an evasive art that it is difficult to prescribe rules or method. Teaching is inspiration. What enables one teacher to succeed might be useless to another; but any general text, or collection of readings or syllabus